

REMARKS

This responds to the first office action mailed June 24, 2004 in connection with the above identified patent application. Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-19 were pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 5, 6 and 13 to 15 have been cancelled and claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 102

Independent claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Aspin (US 3,775,222)

To overcome claim's 1 rejection, claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the limitations of claims 5 and 6, and now recites: ". . . the operator block (94) having the shape of an elongated, tapering solid and being positioned in such a way that its wide end (253) faces a direction (254) opposite the direction in which the web (17) of filter paper is being fed, the operator block (94) having oblique side walls (98) which are in contact with the longitudinal edges (18) of the tube (34) and which bear the emitters (96) in such a way that the emitters (96) face the inside of the tube (34) for reactivating the glue on the faces (97), wherein the sidewalls prevent gaseous fluid issuing from the emitters (96) from passing between the edges (18) and the oblique side walls (98)."

Amended independent claim 1 is new with respect to the cited prior art document of Aspin. Since claim 1 now includes the limitations of claims 5 and 6, and claims 5 and 6 were not rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b), claim 1 now overcomes 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection.

Indeed, as stated by the Examiner (point 6 of the Office Action), Aspin neither disclose nor suggest that the operator block has the shape of an elongated, tapering solid and is positioned in such a way that its wide end faces the direction opposite the direction in which the web of filter paper is being fed. Moreover, Aspin does not disclose that the operator block has oblique side walls which bear the emitters in such a way that the emitters face the inside of the tube for reactivating the glue on the faces; and, wherein the oblique side walls are in contact with the longitudinal edges of the tube for

preventing the gaseous fluid issuing from the emitters from passing between the edges and the oblique side walls themselves.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-15 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) because the subject matter therein disclosed would have been an obvious matter of design choice.

Actually, as clearly stated on page 9 lines 10-25 of the description as originally filed, *"glue reactivation is more efficient because the hot air issuing from the emitters 96 rises towards the open edges 18 of the tube 34 and, practically unable to escape from the area where the edges 18 of the web are in direct contact with the oblique side walls 98 of the operator block 94 can escape to the outside only through the back end of the tube 34 where the web 17 is still open. This means that the air is forced to follow a long path backwards, flowing past the edges 18 bearing the glue to be reactivated and transferring most of the heat carried by the air to the glue on the edges 18 along the way, thus further enhancing the effectiveness of thermal reactivation and at the same time reducing the amount of energy lost through transfer of unused heat to the outside atmosphere."*

Amended claim 1 clearly achieves this advantage. Aspin clearly shows (see figure 2 and column 2 lines 19-20) that the hot air issuing from the emitters 7 rises towards the open edges of the tube and, practically, escape from the tube held open by a predetermined amount by guides 18 and 19.

Thus, amended claim 1 would not been an obvious matter of design choice, since Aspin teaches away from the limitations now introduced in original claim 1, and since original application clearly discloses that such limitations achieve the advantage of reducing the amount of energy lost through transfer of unused heat to the outside atmosphere.

This deficiency is also not corrected by the prior art made of record and not relied upon by the Examiner. Therefore, amended claim 1 is submitted to be non-obvious over

the prior art since neither Aspin nor the other prior art of record, alone or in combination, teach or suggest that that the operator block has oblique side walls which bear the emitters in such a way that the emitters face the inside of the tube, with the oblique side walls in contact with the longitudinal edges of the tube for preventing the gaseous fluid issuing from the emitters from passing between the edges and the oblique side walls themselves.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

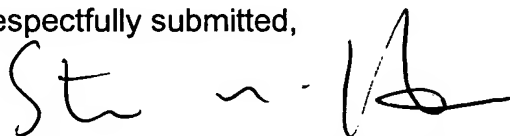
Since all the dependent claims depend directly and indirectly upon and contain all the limitations of amended claim 1, they are respectfully submitted to be patentable too for the reasons given above, as well as for the further limitations recited therein.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record but not applied by the Examiner has been carefully considered but is submitted to be less relevant than the references previously discussed. All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicant's counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St. M. Haas', written over a horizontal line.

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